

August 18, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket #s 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197

Gentlemen,

The FDA should put a stop to the egg industry's practice of forced molting, which has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the hens' immune systems. The egg industry forces these hens to starve for up to two weeks, or feeds them nutritionally deficient food and deprives them of water and light. Five per cent to ten per cent of these chickens will die.

The FDA has the power to ban such practices but for some reason refuses to do this. Forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens and also in the consumers who eat these eggs.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting, but continues to placate the egg industry and put consumers in a dangerous situation. The FDA must do the responsible thing and grant this petition immediately. The FDA must also do more to put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and must regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

The FDA is SUPPOSED to be protecting consumers, not putting their lives at risk!

Sincerely,

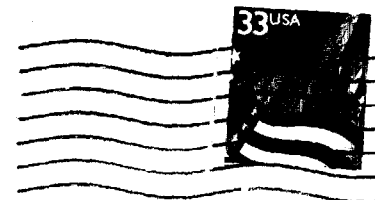
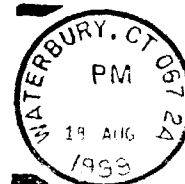
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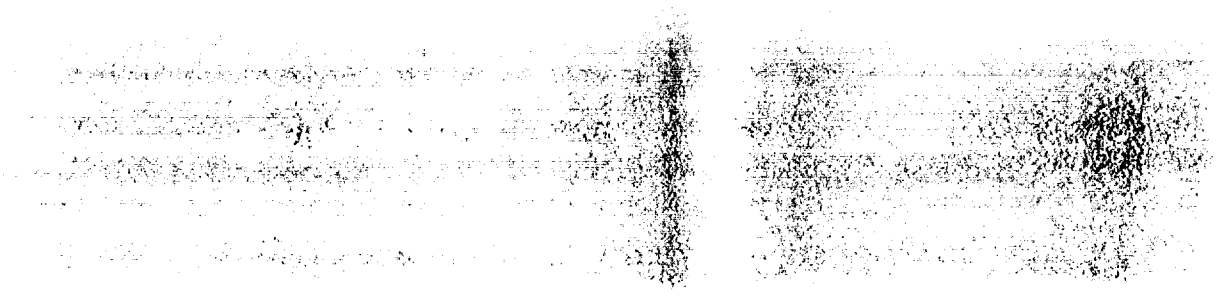
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230

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See File Number:

97P-0197

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